

1870

1912 Dates J-BK

## SEDAN

### Decisive Battle of the World

Napoleon III was trying hard to retain his throne by waging spectacular wars, remodeling Paris and by other means to keep the French national mind from thinking.

France was jealous of Prussian aggrandizement and several occurrences augmented this feeling. Finally war was declared by the French Emperor on July 15, 1870. It speedily

developed that France was utterly unprepared and that Germany had plans of campaign arranged. After an unbroken series of disasters following the first skirmish, the struggle culminated at SEDAN. The magnificent strategy of MOLTKE finally drove the French Army to a common center. Surrounding them within a circumference of 16 miles were 200,000 men and 429 pieces of artillery, which could concentrate their fire wherever Moltke directed. Napoleon III. surrendered with 86,000 men. Thus ended the second Empire of France and thus came into being the present French Republic.